

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

December 20, 2005

RE: UNITED STATES v. PATRICK COLE

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced today the sentencing of Patrick Cole, who was convicted of mail fraud on **September 7, 2005**. Cole was sentenced today to 90 months imprisonment by Chief United States District Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gretchen L. Wylegala, who handled the case, stated that the defendant had been convicted of mail fraud in connection with a Ponzi scheme he operated from early 2001 until the time of his arrest in late 2004. Cole told friends and acquaintances that he was engaged in profitable on-line trading, and offered to help them by investing their funds through his Nevada corporation, Sansueci, Inc. Cole took more than \$2,000,000 from about 225 different people. Some people got their money back, in full or in part, and sometimes got additional money. Unreimbursed losses exceeded \$1.4 million. A number of the victims spoke at sentencing, and the Court received over 130 victim-impact statements. In sentencing the defendant, the Court noted the scope of the scam, and the impact upon the victims. Restitution was ordered as part of the sentence.

Ms. Wylegala said the sentence Chief Judge Arcara imposed on Cole was 12 months longer than the sentence prescribed by the advisory federal sentencing guidelines.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Peter Ahearn, Special Agent in Charge.